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AFGHANISTAN

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FACT SHEET

Afghanistan Parliamentary Assistance Project (APAP)

OVERVIEW

The Afghanistan Parliamentary Assistance Program (APAP) program supports the establishment a strong, effective, and independent deliberative parliamentary body. The project's primary activities include the design of a legislative strengthening strategy; provision of technical assistance to parliamentary committees; strengthening of the Parliament's public outreach capacity; and support for a parliamentary budget office and training institute.

CURRENT ACTIVITIES

- **Legislative:** Strengthen the ability and capacity of Members of Parliament (MPs) and secretariat staff to directly support parliamentary committees with drafting legislation, legislative research, rules of procedure, conducting public hearings, and development of a newly created online bill tracker
- **Budget and oversight:** Support budget, and economic, and other sectoral committees with budget and oversight analysis, economic indicators, and provincial budgeting
- **Institutional development:** Provide training on legal drafting, legislative research, budget analysis, as well as professional skills building such as English language and computer training to MPs and the secretariat staff in key areas supporting their legislative, representative, and oversight functions
- **Constituent outreach:** Facilitate civil-society input into Parliament's legislative and oversight functions by bolstering linkages between MPs and constituents, provincial representative bodies, the executive branch, and the media. Working directly with the Secretariat's public information department (DIPR) to increase their capacity to support MPs' outreach to constituents

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Improved the quality of the legislative process by creating Committee Support Teams for eight key targeted committees and expanded support to all committees in both houses. Developed publicly-available online bill tracker to improve legislative research capacity for MPs, staff, and the general public
- Provided ongoing support to the National Assembly throughout the budget cycle including developing institutional mechanisms to improve provincial input into the budget review process
- Supported seven pre-budget workshops between MPs, provincial council representatives and key officials from a number of ministries and twelve MP-Provincial Council consultations
- Launched the Afghanistan Parliamentary Institute to conduct training courses on the legislative process, committee procedures, legislative research, budget process, oversight, representation, report writing, English and information technology
- Conducted training for 3,500 MPs, staff members, civil-society members, and journalists
- Designed, produced, and broadcast more than 200 national interactive radio roundtables, informational spots, radio newsletters, and radio documentaries to promote public knowledge of the National Assembly